

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Currently amended): A mammalian cell comprising a fluorogenic composition comprising a polypeptide backbone ~~or a nucleic acid backbone~~ joining two identical fluorophores of the same species whereby said fluorophores form an H-dimer resulting in the quenching of the fluorescence of said fluorophores.

Claims 33-34 (Canceled).

Claim 35 (Original): The cell of ~~claim 32~~ claims 32 or 103, wherein said composition bears a hydrophobic group.

Claim 36 (Currently amended): The cell of claim 35, wherein said hydrophobic group is selected from the group consisting of: Fmoc (9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl), 9-fluoreneacetyl group, 1-fluorene-carboxylic group, 9-fluorene-carboxylic group, and 9-fluorenone-1-carboxylic group, benzyloxycarbonyl, Xanthyl (Xan), Trityl (Trt), 4-methyltrityl (Mtt), 4-methoxytrityl (Mmt), 4-methoxy-2,3,6-trimethyl-benzenesulphonyl (Mtr), Mesitylene-2-sulphonyl (Mts), 4,4'-dimethoxybenzhydryl (Mbh), Tosyl (Tos), 2,2,5,7,8-pentamethyl chroman-6-sulphonyl (Pmc), 4-methylbenzyl (MeBzl), 4-methoxybenzyl (MeOBzl), Benzyloxy (BzlO), Benzyl (Bzl), Benzoyl (Bz), 3-nitro-2-pyridinesulphenyl (Npys), 1-(4,4-dimethyl-2,6-dioxocyclohexylidene)ethyl (Dde), 2,6-dichlorobenzyl (2,6-DiCl-Bzl), 2-chlorobenzyloxycarbonyl (2-Cl-Z), 2-bromobenzyloxycarbonyl (2-Br-Z), Benzyloxymethyl (Bom), t-butoxycarbonyl (Boc), cyclohexyloxy (cHxO), t-butoxymethyl (Bum), t-butoxy (tBuO), t-Butyl (tBu), Acetyl (Ac), and Trifluoroacetyl (TFA).

Claim 37 (Currently amended): The cell of claim ~~36~~ 35, wherein said hydrophobic group is Fmoc (9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl).

Claim 38 (Currently amended): The cell of claim ~~32~~ 35, wherein said hydrophobic group is Fa (9-fluoreneacetyl group).

Claim 39 (Currently amended): The cell of claim 32~~35~~, wherein said hydrophobic group is attached to ~~the~~ an amino terminus of the molecule.

Claim 40 (Currently amended): The cell of claim 32, wherein said fluorophores are linked to the ~~nucleic acid backbone or to the~~ polypeptide backbone by linkers.

Claim 41 (Original): The cell of claim 32, wherein said fluorophores have an excitation wavelength between about 315 nm and about 700 nm.

Claim 42 (Original): The cell of claim 32, wherein said fluorophores are selected from the group consisting of carboxytetramethylrhodamine, carboxyrhodamine-X, carboxyrhodamine 110, diethylaminocoumarin, and carbocyanine dyes.

Claim 43 (Original): The cell of claim 42, wherein said fluorophores are carboxytetramethylrhodamine.

Claim 44 (Original): The cell of claim 42, wherein said fluorophores are carboxyrhodamine-X.

Claim 45 (Original): The cell of claim 42, wherein said fluorophores are carboxyrhodamine 110.

Claim 46 (Original): The cell of claim 42, wherein said fluorophores are diethylaminocoumarin.

Claim 47 (Original): The cell of claim 42, wherein said fluorophores are carbocyanine dyes.

Claims 48-102 (Canceled).

Claim 103 (New): The cell of claim 32, wherein said polypeptide backbone comprises a protease cleavage site.

Claim 104 (New): The cell of claim 42, wherein said fluorophores are xanthenes.